

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01646 181032Z

21 R

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 /014 W
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R 181005Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1530

UNCLAS RANGOON 1646

EYES ONLY FOR ASST SECY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER BM

SUBJ: FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

REF: STATE 121307

I HAVE TODAY SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO JOHN HALL:

QUOTE: IT WAS AN HONOR TO BE ASKED TO TAKE THE FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION JOB, AND GENUINELY PAINFUL TO TURN IT DOWN. I WILL MISS THE SUBSTANTIVE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE JOB, AND AM EVEN MORE DISTRESSED TO HAVE LEFT YOU IN THE LURCH IN THIS WAY. QUITE FRANKLY, THE MORE MY WIFE AND I COMPARED OUR ALTERNATIVES, THE MORE HEAVILY THE PRACTICAL INCENTIVES ADDED UP AGAINSTCOMING TO WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME. ANOTHER ELEMENT IN MY DECISION WAS THE FEELING THAT YOU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE -- IN GREATER DEGREE THAN I COULD CONTRIBUTE -- THE IDEAS AND ENTHUSIASM TO IMPART REAL LIFE AND PERSONALITY TO THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMS; WHAT YOU NEED, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS THE INTIMATE FAMILIARITY WITH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT THAT A MAN LIKE FRANK TENNY COULD PROVIDE.

I WANT TO STRESS TWO THINGS: FIRSTLY, I DID APPRECIATE THE HONOR AND THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED ME; AND, SECONDLY, I WAS NOT SEEKING TO PRESSURE YOU OR THE COMMISSION AGAINST A DEADLINE, THOUGH IT MAY HAVE SEEMED THAT WAY. I MADE THE DECISION JUST AS FAST AS WE COULD. WITH ALL BEST WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE COMMISSION, AND WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS, SINCERELY, UNQUOTE.

OSBORN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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